

# The Canadian Entomologist.

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WILLIAM H. EDWARDS.

Our readers will all, we are sure, be glad to receive with the first number of a new volume of the CANADIAN ENTOMOLOGIST the accompanying excellent portrait of the well-known and now venerable Entomologist, Mr. W. H. EDWARDS, of Coalburgh, West Virginia. His life-long work has been the study of Diurnal Lepidoptera, and the results of that work are splendidly set forth in the beautifully illustrated volumes of his "Butterflies of North America." In April, 1868, the first part was issued, and at once commended itself to entomologists everywhere by the exquisite beauty and finish of the plates and their faithfulness to nature. In July, 1872, the first Series, forming a large quarto volume with fifty plates, was completed. The second Series, containing fifty-one plates, was begun in May, 1874, but not finished until November, 1884, the less frequent issue of the parts being more than compensated for by the increased value of both plates and letterpress. When the work was begun, as Mr. Edwards stated in his preface, little or nothing was known of the eggs, larvæ or chrysalids of any except the commonest butterflies, and accordingly his first volume illustrated only the perfect state. In 1870 he made the notable discovery that eggs could be satisfactorily obtained by confining the female butterfly of any species with the growing food-plant of its larva, and at once began the study of the life-histories of a number of species previously known only in the imago state. The results of these studies are admirably set forth in the letterpress as well as in the plates of the second and third Series; on these are accurately depicted eggs and larvæ in their different stages, as well as chrysalids and imagoes. Many wonderful discoveries have been made during these investigations, among the first being that of the seasonal trimorphism of *Papilio Ajax*, and the dimorphism of *Grapta Interrogationis*, and of *G. Comma*. The process of breeding was soon taken up by Mr. Edwards's friends and correspondents all over North America, and, aided by the general extension of railways over the Continent, he was able to get eggs of butterflies from widely distant localities,